

§Appl. No. 10/813,552
Amdt. dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of, June 1, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Single independent claim 1 and claims 6 and 10 depended from claim 1 remain in this application for examination.

Drawings:

Applicant enclose herewith corrected drawings that respond to the Examiner's objection to the originally filed drawings.

Objections to the Specification:

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because of various informalities to pages 1, 7 and 9. By the foregoing amendments, the specification has been corrected.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stehling '596 in view of Stehling '185. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Considering Stehling '596 first, claim 1 has been determined by the Examiner as met by Stehling '596 except for the drain valve which is set forth in claim 1 as follows:

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... a drain valve extending through the bottom wall portion of the female valve body and into the second cavity drain water out of the housing to avoid clogging the slot in the cam block with frozen water, which clogging can prevent operation of the suction inlet valve.

It is alleged in the rejection that this deficiency in Stehling '596 as a reference against Applicants' claims is met by a combination of Stehling '596 with Stehling '185. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Stehling '185 discloses an air bleeder valve (150) in the male portion (30) of the valve housing. The air bleeder valve (150) is used to purge air from the suction inlet valve (10) before air enters the valve (10) and becomes a problem during hydrant operation where long lays of large diameter hose continue to accumulate air when the hose is first charged. Clearly, the air bleeder valve (150) of Stehling '185 is not located in the female portion of the suction inlet valve but is located in the male portion, and is used for a different purpose, i.e., bleeding air rather than draining water.

In Applicant's claimed invention, the ice problem occurs in the female portion (48) of the valve (10) which rapidly becomes cold in very cold weather due to heat transfer away from the valve (10) because of metal construction of the valve. The transfer of heat out of the suction valve is accelerated by exposure of the operating shaft to the environment. This problem is not addressed in Stehling '185 because the valve 150 in Stehling '185 is for bleeding air from the male portion of the chamber (40). Accordingly, there is no teaching in Stehling '185 of draining water from the female portion of the inlet valve as is required by Applicant's claim 1. In that the valve (150) of Stehling

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'185 is for a different purpose, which purpose is akin to the valve in the air bleeder system (70) of Stehling '596, there is no suggestion or motivation other than Applicant's disclosure for placing a water draining valve in the female portion of a suction inlet valve to drain water to prevent freezing in the slot of the cam. In the absence of Applicant's own recognition of the problem and solution to the problem, one skilled in the art would not have made this combination of references. This is especially the case because the secondary reference Stehling '185 teaches a valve for bleeding air, not a valve for draining water.

In that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established by the combination of Stehling '185 with Stehling '596, it is respectfully requested that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

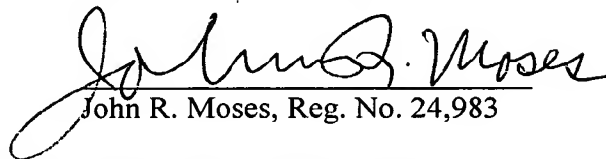
In that dependent claims 6 and 10 depended from independent claim 1, dependent claims 6 and 10 limit claim 1 further and are therefore patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

In that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action of June 1, 2005, it is respectfully requested that this application now be allowed and passed to issue. If the Examiner for any reason feels a personal conference with Applicants' attorneys might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response
or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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In the Drawings:

Applicant submits herewith corrected drawings having reference numerals in standard form and copy marks removed.